

## **Appendix F.**

### **Charter and Head Boat Sampling Frame**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION A - STATEMENT OF WORK.....	3
BACKGROUND.....	3
REQUIREMENTS.....	3
1.0 Stratification .....	3
2.0 Sampling Frame .....	4
2.1 Sampling Frame Creation.....	4
2.2 Sampling Frame Maintenance .....	4
3.0 Reporting Requirements.....	5
4.0 Data Transmittal .....	5
SECTION B - PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE .....	5
SECTION C: CONFIDENTIALITY .....	5
Table F.1. Sample Frame Creation and Maintenance by State and Wave. ....	6

## **SECTION A - STATEMENT OF WORK**

### **BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this option is to create a more efficient sampling frame for estimating effort for the head and charter boat modes on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. Conduct of the routine MRFSS since 1979 has shown that most anglers who participate in these modes are non-coastal and out-of-state residents, resulting in a large ratio adjustment used to expand coastal trips into total trips.

In some cases, that ratio adjustment causes trip estimates to be above the maximum that the known party/charter fleet could make in a wave. Additionally, because very few coastal residents participate in the fishery, the contact rate in the telephone survey is small and patchy. Unstable ratio adjustments and patchy trip estimates have been compensated for by pooling up to five years of telephone trip and intercept residence data. This smooths estimates and fills in empty cells; however, the compensations may mask real changes in effort. The Intercept Contractor is the logical entity to conduct this task due to the large force of interviewers with personal knowledge of the for-hire fleets and access to sources on new vessels. The Telephone Contractor would implement the weekly telephone calling of captains as described in Appendix I. Implementation of telephone interviewing using a sampling frame of party/charter operators would not result in cost savings, but it will result in increased accuracy and precision of the MRFSS estimates. It also will allow further stratification between the two modes. This option would be implemented on a sub-regional basis.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

#### **1.0 Stratification**

The definitions from the 1996 MRFSS RFP remain the basic definitions for this option; however, because we are more interested in stratifying based on target species and fishing methods, a boat may be classified as a head (head) boat or a charter boat based on interviewer knowledge of their dominant fishing activity, in consultation with the MRFSS staff. A vessel should be assigned to one mode only at the beginning of a wave and will be classified as that mode throughout the wave, no matter what fishing activity occurred on an individual trip. A vessel may change modes between waves, based on fish stock seasonality and their fishing activity in response to that seasonality. Mode classifications on the master list may change for individual vessels between waves.

The creation of the sampling frame only applies to the Atlantic coast while maintenance on a wave basis applies to both the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and its member states, in cooperation with NMFS, created a sampling frame of for-hire vessels in the Gulf of Mexico during the 1997-1998 Charter Vessel Pilot Survey. Only maintenance is needed for that frame. States on the Pacific coast conduct a variety of head/charter monitoring programs; further consultation with the Pacific coast is necessary before considering wholesale changes to head/charter estimates. From North Carolina through Louisiana, the routine MRFSS

survey does not cover head boat fishing; however, this option does allow for their inclusion in the frame. The option also allows for the inclusion of Texas vessels. Texas is interested in improving their head and charter boat estimates and this option allows for a cooperative approach.

## **2.0 Sampling Frame**

### **2.1 Sampling Frame Creation**

Separate sampling frames of all head boats and charter boats working within each state must be completely compiled in electronic format at least one month prior to the beginning of the first year the weekly sampling option is conducted. NMFS will provide seven months prior notice to the Intercept Contractor that weekly telephone sampling will be exercised, thus giving the Contractor 6 months to compile the frame.

The list will include: vessel name, length, maximum number of passengers, usual number of crew members, and registration number; captain's name, work and home phone numbers, and mailing address; answering service/ticket booth that can be used as an alternative to calling the captain; preferred calling time and number; usual docking location (name, address or directions, latitude and longitude); routine species targeted, and fishing method and area of fishing (inland, ocean, etc. and distance offshore). If a captain owns and pilots more than one vessel, the sampling frame will have one unique record for each captain/vessel combination. NMFS will create a file layout in consultation with the Contractor.

Sources for compiling the sampling frame include the current MRFSS site register, the Coast Guard's T-boat listing, State licenses, coastal Chambers of Commerce and Visitor Centers, tackle shops, fishing and sporting magazines, local newspapers, and State and local marine enforcement officers. The sampling frame should be updated before each wave with any information obtained during the previous wave. Table F.1 contains the order list for sample frame creation and maintenance. Appendix I, Table I.1 contains estimates of the size of the universe of head and charter boats.

### **2.2 Sampling Frame Maintenance**

The captain/vessel sampling frame will be updated for each wave in which the weekly telephone sampling of captains is conducted. The sampling frame will need to be completely updated and provided to NMFS and the Telephone Contractor one month before the start of each wave.

Sources for updating the frame include data gathered during intercept and telephone sampling in previous months, as well as the same sources used to compile the frame. Maintenance includes adding new vessels as they enter a fishery, transfer of vessels from head to charter modes as indicated by their predominant activity, flagging inactive vessels, as well as ensuring complete information for each vessel.

## **3.0 Reporting Requirements**

Current reporting requirements for the routine MRFSS are provided for in the Statement of Work for the 1999 contract and are incorporated in this Statement of Work by reference. Those reports are incorporated by reference. Compilation and maintenance results by mode will be maintained separately for each creation and for each wave:

- Number of captain/vessels in sampling frame
- Number of captains added to sampling frame
- Number of captains flagged inactive, and
- Number of records updated with new or more complete information.

Timely submission of these performance data is necessary to maintain sample frame quality through identification of problem areas and adjustment of procedures as necessary.

#### **4.0 Data Transmittal**

Current data transmittal requirements for the routine MRFSS are provided for in the Statement of Work for the 1999 contract and are incorporated in this Statement of Work by reference.

### **SECTION B - PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE**

The period of performance shall be on an annual basis as provided for the routine MRFSS in the Statement of Work for the 1999 contract and is incorporated in this Statement of Work by reference.

### **SECTION C: CONFIDENTIALITY**

The data collected for the survey shall be used only for statistical purposes, and will be available in identifiable form only to NMFS and its contractors except as otherwise required by law. All requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) concerning the collection and use of identifiable information for individuals shall be observed.

**Table F.1. Sample Frame Creation and Maintenance by State and Wave.**

Region	State	Create Frame	Maintain Frame Waves					
			1	2	3	4	5	6
North Atlantic	Maine	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	New Hampshire	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Massachusetts	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Rhode Island	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Connecticut	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Mid-Atlantic	New York	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	New Jersey	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Delaware	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Maryland	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Virginia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
South Atlantic	North Carolina	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	South Carolina	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Georgia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	East Florida	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Gulf of Mexico	West Florida	No	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Alabama	No	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Mississippi	No	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Louisiana	No	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Texas	No	x	x	x	x	x	x